a plurality of remote units having a radio frequency transmitter and receiver, said remote units capable of transmitting to and receiving from said master unit of the building monitoring system.

3. (Amended) A building monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein said remote units having a first low power consumption state in which said remote units can neither receive nor transmit, a second power consumption state in which said units can receive, and a third power consumption state in which said units can transmit, wherein said second and third states have higher power consumption than said first state.

17. (Amended) A building monitoring system utilizing bi-directional radio frequency communication comprising:

at least one master unit including a radio frequency transmitter and receiver;

a plurality of remote units each having a radio frequency transmitter and receiver, said remote units capable of transmitting to and receiving from said master unit of the building monitoring system and capable of generating polling events in response to a poll message received from said master unit;

said remote units each having at least one timer for generating a timeout event;

said remote units each having at least one sensor for measuring selected variables; said remote units capable of generating a sensor event in response to a sensor change of measurement; and

said remote units each having a non-communicating state with low power consumption and in which said remote units can neither receive nor transmit, and a receiving state having higher power consumption than said non-communicating state and in which said units can receive, wherein said selected remote units are in said receiving state only after selected event occurrences, wherein said selected events are selected from the group consisting of timeout events, polling events, and sensor events.

23. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, comprising:

transmitting a message from the remote unit to the master unit of the building monitoring system; and

transmitting an acknowledge from the master unit to the remote unit indicating receipt of the message.

25. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, wherein the remote unit is capable of transmitting to and receiving messages from the master unit of the building monitoring system, the remote unit further having a non-communicating low power consumption state in which said remote unit can neither receive nor transmit, a receiving state in which said remote unit can receive, and a transmitting state in which said remote unit can transmit, said remote unit also having at least one sensor for producing a sensor change event, the method comprising:

waiting for the sensor change event while in said non-communicating state;

entering the transmitting state and transmitting a message upon detecting the sensor change event;

entering the receiving state and waiting for acknowledgment of said data transmission; and

returning to the waiting for sensor change step.

31. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, wherein the remote unit is capable of transmitting to and receiving messages from the master unit of the building monitoring system, the remote unit further having a non-communicating low power consumption state in which said remote unit can neither receive nor transmit, a receiving state in which said remote unit can receive, and a transmitting state in which said remote unit can transmit, the method comprising:

determining a time for communicating with said master;

waiting for said time while in said non-communicating state;

changing to said transmitting state and transmitting a message upon attaining said determined time for communication;

waiting for acknowledgment of said transmission in said receiving state; and

returning to said determining step for determining a new time for communicating with said master.

33. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, wherein the remote unit is capable of transmitting to and receiving messages from the master unit of the building monitoring system, the remote unit further having a non-communicating low power consumption state in which said remote unit can neither receive nor transmit, a receiving state in which said remote unit can receive, and a transmitting state in which said remote unit can transmit, the method comprising:

providing a time signal from said master to said remote;

waiting while in said non-communicating state for a time interval corresponding to said provided time signal; and

changing to said transmitting state and transmitting a message after expiration of said time interval.

Discussion

An office action dated 04/10/02 was received on the above-captioned patent application.

The examiner objected to figure 1 because of the unlabeled boxes. A red-lined figure 1 with the box entries is enclosed for examiner approval.

As to claim 3, the examiner noted that "sate" should be "state". Such correction is incorporated in this amendment.

Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, because "a type" renders them indefinite. In the specification, "type" is discussed in lines 10-16 of page 7, line 10 of page 17, line 16 of page 22, and line 7 of page 23. Hopefully, these places in the text identify the